

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 1053

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, OAS, NU, VE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PEREZ SENDS LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER ON
NICARAGUA

1. PRESIDENT PEREZ SUMMONED ME THIS AFTERNOON (JANUARY 31) TO GIVE ME A PERSONAL LETTER FROM HIM TO PRESIDENT CARTER ON NICARAGUA, THE TEXT OF WHICH IS QUOTED BELOW. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WAS EXTREMELY WORRIED ABOUT THE NICARAGUAN SITUATION, WHICH HE BELIEVES IS DETERIORATING VERY FAST. HE IS AFRAID THAT IF IT CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE CHAOS WILL RESULT AND EXTREMISTS, WHO ARE ARMED, WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION. HE SAID TERRIBLE CRIMES AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS ARE BEING COMMITTED BY THE REGIME. HE SAID THAT IN HIS LETTER HE PROPOSES SOME ACTION BY THE OAS, SUGGESTING SPECIFICALLY THAT IT DISPATCH THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHST COMMITTEE TO NICARAGUA.

2. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT SOMOSA HAD CALLED HIM AND HAD ASKED HIM TO RECEIVE THE NICARAGUAN VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. PEREZ SAID HE WOULD BE GLAD TO DO SO, AND THE VICE MINISTER IS ARRIVING TOMORROW (FEBRUARY 1). PRESIDENT PEREZ SAID HE WOULD EXPRESS TO THE VICE MINISTER HIS GRAVE CONCERN OVER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CARACA 01053 312243Z

THE DETERIORATING SITUATION, HIS GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, REPORTS OF "CRIMES AND REPRESSIONS" THAT HE HAS RECEIVED, AND THAT HE WILL OFFER TO UNDERTAKE ANY MEDIATION OR ASSISTANCE DESIRED TO STABILIZE THE SITUATION.

3. I LIMITED MYSELF TO THE OBSERVATION THAT WERE ANY
OAS ACTION TO BE TAKEN, THE HUMAN RIGHST COMMITTEE MAY NOT BE THE

INDICATED ENTITY, SINCE IT IS NOT A POLITICAL BODY NOR A DISPUTE-SETTLING ORGANIZATION. PERHAPS, I SAID, SOME SPECIFICALLY DESIGNATED COMMISSION OR THE PEACE COMMITTEE OR CONSULTATIONS UNDER THE RIO TREATY MAY BE MORE RELEVANT IF ANY ACTION UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE OAS IS TO BE TAKEN. I PROMISED TO FORWARD HIS LETTER IMMEDIATELY.

4. OUR TRANSLATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER FOLLOWS (ORIGINAL BEING POUCHED TO ARA):

QUOTE:

MY DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

IN OUR CONVERSATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THE DEFENSE AND ADVANCEMENT OF WHICH ARE HAPPILY FIRM POLICIES OF YOUR GOVERNMENT, WE AGREED TO EXCHANGE POINTS OF VIEW AND TO CONSULT WITH REGARD TO SPECIFIC SITUATIONS.

THIS AGREEMENT, SO IMPORTANT TO OUR COMMON DETERMINATION TO FIGHT FOR THE RESPECT OF HUMAN DIGNITY AND FOR THE FUNDAMENTAL ETHICAL VALUES OF DEMOCRACY, LEADS ME TO RAISE WITH YOU THE URGENT AND DRAMATIC CASE OF NICARAGUA, A LATIN AMERICAN NATION SUBJECTED TO A LONG AND CORRUPT DICTATORSHIP THAT HAS SYSTEMATICALLY VIOLATED HUMAN RIGHTS.

TODAY, THIS PEOPLE, HAVING OVERCOME THE TRADITIONAL FEAR OF A
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CARACA 01053 312243Z

DICTATORSHIP'S ABUSES AND STIMULATED BY THE INDIGNATION AROUSED BY THE VILE MURDER OF THE DEMOCRATIC NICARAGUAN JOURNALIST, PEDRO JOAQUIN CHAMORRO, PRESUMABLY EXECUTED BY OFFICIAL DESIGN, HAS CREATED A MOVEMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY THAT JOINS TOGETHER ALL SECTORS OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY, FARMERS, WORKERS, BUSINESSMEN, INDUSTRIALISTS, HOUSEWIVES AND CHURCH MINISTERS HEADED BY THE BISHOPS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, IN OPEN REBELLION AGAINST THE TRAGIC STATE OF AFFAIRS THROUGH WHICH THE SUFFERING PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA ARE LIVING.

GIVEN THIS SITUATION, THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA HAS UNLEASHED A FEROCIOUS REPRESSION WHICH IS DENOUNCED DAILY BY THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES AND BY NICARAGUAN EXILES IN COSTA RICA.

TO REMAIN INDIFFERENT BEFORE THIS SHAMEFUL AND FLAGRANT VIOLATION WOULD MEAN TO IGNORE AND CONTRADICT THE VERY SAME PURPOSES THAT YOU AND I HAVE DEFINED IN OUR POLICIES REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS. IN THIS CONTEXT, I PROPOSE TO YOU A JOINT ACTION THROUGH THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS COULD INCLUDE REQUESTING THE PERMISSION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA FOR AN URGENT VISIT TO THAT COUNTRY OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

CORDIALLY,
CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ
PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA.
UNQUOTE.
VAKY

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